

In the early part of 1754 the French had almost realized their grand scheme of establishing an unbroken line of forts, stretching from Montreal to New Orleans, by fortifications on Lake Ontario, ~~on~~ Lake Erie, ~~at~~ Presque Isle, and on the sources of the Ohio ~~by~~ way of French Creek and the Allegheny, thence to the Ohio itself.

Washington's journal of his journey to LeBoeuf ^{in 1753} had opened the eyes of Europe to French ambitions in the coveted territory. The aged and infirm but enterprising Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia had received positive instructions from his king, ordering him to drive off by force of arms the French trespassers. His Burgesses had after much urging on his part appropriated 10,000 pounds for defense, but Quaker non-combatants and German farmers in Pennsylvania had stoutly refused to come to the Pennsylvania governors aid in the assembly. The King ordered ~~two~~ independent companies of New York ~~to march~~ and to march to Washington's aid.

an Independent company from South Carolina. N. Carolins alone responded ^{promised} voluntarily, yet of these reinforcements the only force to arrive

in time to aid Washington's brave but ragged and poorly armed recruits was the South Carolina Company, which in some respects was a ^{addition}

~~in some~~ valueless because Captain Mackey its commander, holding a

King's commission refused to take orders from Colonel Washington, likewise

a Colony commander, while his men refused to help cut roads, carry

the heavy swivels or do anything but fight. Washington paid men out of his own pocket to carry the baggage and loaded his horse and walked. Out of 74 wagons promised Washington only ten had reached him.

The year 1754 from the very beginning appeared
in a series of writing and significant work.

" " 2
Vestal dived overboard and managed to keep the precious box afloat until his companions of the crew assisted him in recovering it.

Important papers, some of them involving great individuals in both Holland, England and America were discovered in the contents and the proposed Treaty with Holland. This latter document led to a declaration of War by Great Britain on that Republic.

Captain Keppel took his distinguished captive to England, where instructions were given to have him strongly guarded and brought to London. One lieutenant rode with him in a chaise while two others followed in another behind. Lauren's status in England was for a time a puzzle. Some judged him to be an American captive, while others declared him to be a rebel and traitor. Realizing Lauren's importance and being totally unable to break his silence as to any matter affecting politics in America, they subjected him to a ~~severe~~ ^{close and lengthy} examination, an ~~operation~~ ^{order} which proved his astuteness and loyalty, ~~which later~~ ^{and} called forth praise from the British writer Upcott, who declared " he (Lauren's) must extort admiration from the most attached and enthusiastic

partisan." XXXX +

"Those three eastern wise men, the Secretaries of State, could not tell whether it be treason, or not, or at least they are afraid to call it so, lest it should turn out a glorious revolution supported and approved by all Europe," sardonically remarks the current "New Jersey Gazette." Lauren proved his ability to take care of himself.

When ~~first~~ ^{Lauren was left with} meeting him, the Secretaries, after informing ~~him~~ ^{him} of their rank and character, asked him: "Is your name Henry Laurens?"

"It is." "Are you the same Henry Laurens who was President of the American Congress?" "I am." "We are ordered by the King and Council to examine you, and have certain questions to propose to you." "Your Lordships may save yourselves the trouble of an examination as I think it my place to answer no questions you put." ~ ~ ~

as I think it my place to answer no questions that you put."

In reply to particular questions, Laurens merely bowed and thanked them for their courtesies and attentions, received since his captivity, but in all matters relating to his country he kept the most inviolable silence. Addressing the under-secretaries, who with pen, ink and paper were ready to put down every word into the record, Laurens coolly remarked, "Your paper, gentlemen, will certainly retain its original purity for anything that falls from me, for on this subject I neither can, nor will, give the smallest information."

Mr. Mansfield, the Solicitor-General, then conferred with their Lordships as to how to break the prisoner's silence. The lawyer was asked to practise a little of his profession of leading the witness, by first asking trifling questions, then proceeding to material subjects, and thus seducing Laurens into an inadvertent reply on something important. This plot failed and ^{at} Mr. Laurens' failure to unseal his lips after five hours of questioning one of the Secretaries remarked: "Sir, we are directed to commit your person to the Tower."

"I am ready to attend," replied the imperturbed Laurens..

"Those three eastern wise men, the Secretaries of State, could not tell whether it be treason or not, or at least, they are afraid to call it so, lest it should turn out to be a glorious revolution, supported and approved by all of Europe," sardonically remarks the current "New Jersey Gazette."

The fruitless result of Laurens' interrogation soon reached the ears of the public, when one political wag indited some lines, to be sung to a popular tune going "Down, -Derry, down":

Cook marches ahead with the
light baggage train 12 miles from
~~the~~ the first messenger Capt
H. says to guard the route for 5 miles then
Agent was sent ^{forward} to clear a road through
the forest of bushes and into the
mountains - a large improvement was
made at the ^{head} of the trail - he sent
an advance of the herd the captured
herd to return to it recently a
few days ago on the water, ~~many~~ The camp
posts are about 20 miles apart, and some of
men has other ideas. ~~looking for a list.~~
These things the merchants will not admit
therefore - The country has ~~under no~~ reason
they have not money to move along
and it cannot be expected that the office
will always be in a position to supply
supplies ~~gladly~~ to the ~~travellers~~ ^{travellers}

Washington

The (State) people of the 2nd May 1854 were
in the Washington, where the British Consul was
but one of the French under French, provided

but the signing of a great conspiracy and the
resolutions were followed: Washington made a full plan
to be given for the state and the British Consul
from the Consul in order to the British Ministry
Washington under ally, French Consul, and for the
~~the~~ the President Chief of the

If you have any doubts I will not be surprised
to see you at what time they will --
If you see I am beaten, you will hear of the
same time that we have done our duty

Washington indignantly rejected the suggestion
of the French that French Consul should be

"We have been six days without flour"

Washington Quartermaster Department ordered for the regular
service rendered by Major Charles Leitch - ~~Leitch~~
to enter Gen. Bismarck's house after a short time
have 2 days without procuring of provisions had not
sent a letter from the Chief to our relief. For
whose flour I was obliged to get 2 heavy iron
chillings and eight pounds per hundred

Major Mace arrived on the 10th of June with
several powder & balls. - Capt Macey arrived
with the 1st Carolina Company -

Have French cartridges reported the French fort complete
at the time of the other with 700 men in it, but more or less
more to expect in two weeks -

Washington with officers for promotion Lt Col
Mace, Capt Van Brunt, Captain John Stoughton
who was to have a plan of the fort
and Major Pyronie a French fortification
will stand, arrived at New York and killed at
Bradford's report

Three Aleutians, & Belugas ~~of the~~ Indian House
Indian Office found Washington from
the (yesterday).

The Indians gave testimony a new

Constitution - The new petition to the
office - not to be an individual -

Washington was troubled as to how best
to get boards home. He began a letter
from the King while he was in
from the Governor - Mackay did not think

the King's Governor's order applied to him -

He was supposed to come in the road
Mackay thought no came, very little
a letter about four days showing
four and sixty beavers - Mackay

unless as Cap Mackay said he will report

then - = killing starting a day

which with Washington's record shows to be

in Command

The French War.

17th Instalment

Washington Engaged ~~at~~ its First Battle.

~~Stirring events~~ ushered in the year 1754. The French had almost realized their grand scheme of establishing an unbroken line of forts, extending from Montreal down to New Orleans. They had built strong forts on Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Presque Isle, and ~~at~~ the sources of the Ohio, ~~by way of French Creek and the Allegheny, to and~~ ^{on} the Ohio itself. ^{on board} Forts were erected on the Wabash river.

Washington's journal of his journey to LeBoeuf late in 1753, had opened the eyes of America and Europe ~~as~~ to French ambitions in the coveted ^{Eastern} Ohio territory. The aged and physically infirm, but ^{alert and resourceful} enterprising,

Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, had received positive instructions from his king, ordering him to drive off by force of arms the French tresspassers. His burgesses had, after much urging, reluctantly appropriated ten thousand pounds for defense, but Quaker non-combatants and German farmers in Pennsylvania, had stoutly refused to come to the Pennsylvania governor's aid in the assembly. George the Second ordered two independent companies in New York and one in South Carolina to march to ^{Colonel} Washington's aid. North Carolina responded voluntarily.

Washington's instructions from his governor were positive. Writes he, "You are to train and discipline your men in the best manner you can, and for all necessaries you are to apply yourself to Mr. John Carlisle at Alexandria, who has my order to supply you. Having all things in readiness you are to use all expedition and proceed to the Forks of the Ohio with the men under your command and there you are to finish and complete in the best manner, and as soon as you possibly can, the fort w'ch I expect is there already begun by the Ohio Company. You are to act on the defensive, ["] but in case any attempts are made to obstruct the works or interrupt our settlements by any persons whatsoever you are to restrain all such offenders, and in case of resistance to make prisoners of or kill and destroy them. ~~For the rest~~ you are to conduct yourself as the circumstances of the service shall

~~The advance on the Governor and his family~~
left failed to bring it to do business the
following year, forcing Madison to leave Town
and in securing ^{no} wages - ~~Madison~~ ^{Madison} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~result~~
of ~~volatility~~ ~~was~~ ~~to~~ ~~pass~~ a ~~provision~~
letter, with ~~an~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~paper~~ ~~was~~ ~~sent~~
~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~governor~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~other~~ ~~states~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~
~~with~~ ~~an~~ ~~advance~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~governor~~ ~~and~~ ~~his~~ ~~family~~
the King ^{partially} ~~was~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~governor~~ ~~and~~ ~~his~~ ~~family~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~King~~

On the 27th of June, Blount detached a force of
Capt Lewis, later found a ^{summit} ~~summit~~ ^{of the mountain} ~~summit~~ ^{and the path}
road to the mouth of the river, and the path
reconnoitered. - The French were not able to
the very next day sent a strong force of 600 ^{trained} ~~men~~
and 100 Indians to attack Washington - a famed warrior
French Captain Condon & Volliers, known as "the Great
Volliers", who had performed marvelous ^{of valor} ~~deeds~~
in Acadia and elsewhere, sought special permission
to lead this force, as he said, "to avenge
his half brother" Jounville's assassination."

Washington, second in command under Captain Mercier,
the Engineer who had built Fort Duquesne -

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On April 2nd Washington and his raw recruits left Alexandria for Wills Creek. He resolved to advance to Redstone Vreek on the Monongahela, ~~mm~~ cut a road to that point and erect a fort.

He sent an advance force of 60 men ahead to open the road. Road building was tedious as trees had to be felled, ^{bridges to be built} deep streams forded and openings cut through the mountains. The weather was cold and wet, and heavy brass swivels had to be dragged over precipices and fallen log. Two days were spent in bridging the Little Yough creek.

On May 18th they had reached the Great Crossings at the Voughioghenny.. With th ee companies Washington occupied an outpose, without a barrier between him and the large and powerful French force of Contracoeur numbering nearly 1,000 men. Yet he resolved to push ahead. "We will endeavor to make the road sufficiently good for the heaviest artillery to pass" he writes his governor. In the midst of these trying experiences, with food and supplies delayed in getting to him he was writing long letters to his Governor reporting his progress, and some of Dinwiddie's letters were not of the pleasant sort.

Washington in reporting his defeat of Jumonville writes " I engaged a party of French whereof ten were killed and twenty-one taken, with the loss of only one of mine killed and two or three wounded,,among whom ~~were~~ was Lt. Waggener. The French poet Thomas, wrote a long poem of several cantos calling the Jumonville affair a "massacre", but his historical statements are ridiculously false." The only fact it contains," writes Winthrop Sargent, " is that Jumonville was really dead." . " O triste Virginie! O malheureux rivages, " malheureux Anglais (Oh, wretched people!) he exclaims.

In his poem Jumonville's shade is made to stand beside Washington on the ramparts of Fort Necessity, freezing his blood with supernatural fear. An interesting fact will always attach to this little encounter in the Pennsylvania wilderness, for it was the first actual battle of the great Seven years War, which was to involve the most of Europe, and the first command to fire was given by Colonel George Washington.

Washington's own instructions from Dinwiddie were positive:

"You are to train and discipline your men in the best manner you can, and for all necessities you are to apply yourself to Mr. John Carlisle at Alexandria, who has my order to supply you. Having all things in readiness you are to use all expedition and proceed to the Forks of the Ohio with the men under your command and there you are to finish and complete in the best manner and as soon as you possibly can the fort w'ch I expect is there already begun by the Ohio Company. You are to act on the defensive but in case any attempts are made to obstruct the works or interrupt our settlements by any persons whatsoever you are to restrain all such offenders and in case of resistance to make prisoners of or kill and destroy them. For the rest you are to conduct yourself as the circumstances of the service shall require and to act as you shall find best for his majesty service and the good of his dominion." .

On the 17th of April nearly 1,000 French men suddenly appeared in nearly 100 batteaux coming down the Allegheny from Venango, interrupting the force of Ensign Ward and his 40 laborers, who were busy in erecting a fort at the Forks. Ward was given one hour to abandon the place. Ward was advised by the ~~sublime~~ wily Half King, who was with him to advise the French that his superior Captain Trent was absent and he had no authority, owing to his rank to deal with the French Commander. This ruse did not work, but ~~then~~ Contrecoeur was lenient enough to allow him to withdraw his 40 men and their tools and proceed back to Virginia. Washington was at Wills Creek when the news of the abandonment of the Forks reached him.

The boat was so badly damaged that we
had to cut her out of the ice
and sawed her to pieces. The
water was shut up so hard that we
found no difficulty in getting off the
Island on the ice in the morning -
going to the Southern bank.

At ^{Washington} ~~Frazier~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ of meeting with some
Indian warriors who were going to the
Southwest to war, but say of a place
on the head of the Great Lakes.

Where they had seen people killed &
scraped, they turned back & ran back for fear
Washington. The inhabitants of the
place and take them as the outcome of the
murder. - They report that the bodies were
lying about the house and some of the
much torn & eaten by dogs. By the
marks which were left they say they
were French Indian of the Ottawa
nation who did it."

'On Tuesday' records Washington
his journal, 'we left Mr. Frazier's house
and arrived at Mr. Smith's at Monongahela
the 3rd where I caught a horse and rode
On the 6th they all spent the day at Monongahela

loaded with natural history from part at
the house of the Indians, and some families going
out to settle - " On the 7th they arrived at
Wilde Creek, or ^{Fort} "after" route.

Work was as fatiguing as it was
possible to conceive, rendered so by
excessively bad weather. From the
1st Day of October to the 15th there
was but one day on which it did not
rain or snow incessantly, and he adds
"strongly that our whole journey was not worth
nothing but one continued dreary cold
wet weather, which rendered my
uncomfortable - but going -"

He reached Belton on the 11th when
he remained a day & arrived at Belton
on the 16th when ^{as he writes} he waited upon
and honor the Governor, with the letter
I had brought from the French Commissioner -
Offering for consideration his proposal ^{with modesty} to go

Washington and his Virginian force reached a point near Laurel Mountain, in Western Pennsylvania, called "The great Meadows.. In vain he looked for the arrival of the promised New York and Carolina Companies. ~~Captain Mackey and his company was nearest to him but still many miles off~~

